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Senator Cullom's Forecast.

The subjoined paragraph contains what is perhaps the briefest, the plainest and the most comprehensive definition of the United States Government's proper course with regard to a change of sovereignty over the Isthmus:

"In case the insurgents in Panama are successful and win recognition of the Republic of Panama from the United States, the embarrassment in which this Government now finds itself concerning canal negotiations will be relieved, as it will then be possible to negotiate a treaty with the new State."

This is the opinion and forecast, as reported by the *New York Herald*, of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Why balk at the plain truth of the situation? Senator CULLOM simply foresees the end toward which events are hastening.

Is there anything in the case as it stands to-day, or in the future developments likely to proceed from the present situation, which involves discredit to this nation or doubt as to the absolutely correct attitude of the Government at Washington now and at all times?

They who declare that Americans ought to blush at the thought of embracing the opportunity which the greed of the Bogota extortioners has forced into existence are mostly the disappointed partisans of the Nicaragua route. Where they are not that, they are middle-headed moralists in whose view America is constantly in danger of disgracing herself before the world.

How much readier are these latter to perceive shame in store abroad for the United States Government and people than the European critics of our behavior whose unfavorable opinion they deprecate! How much quicker, for example, is the *New York Evening Post* to detect in advance of the fact the dishonorable quality of any canal treaty negotiated with the Republic of Panama than is the *Times* of London.

Mr. Gorman in the Senate.

It is safe to say that the Hon. ARTHUR PUE GORMAN is neither surprised nor greatly elated by his success in taking Maryland away from the Republicans. He never runs after rainbows; and he is as cool after winning as after losing. As the leader of his party in the Senate he will soon have on his hands a campaign larger and even more difficult than the one which he has lately conducted with all his own skill and shrewdness. He has not only to steer his party in a prudent course and to make the most of Republican mistakes, but he has to avoid friction within the party, to persuade the impatient hot-headed to go a little slower, to temper individual ardors and jealousies.

He knows all the arts of parliamentary process and management. The Republicans in the Senate may have more brilliant and eloquent adversaries, but none more formidable. If the Democratic party is to regain the popular confidence which it has thrown away, it must be by proving itself judicious, not unreasonably obstructive, not fanatically partisan, but patriotic, intelligent, "safe." It is good fortune for it to have as its leader in the Senate a man with no burrs in his convolutions. Mr. GORMAN will not "slop over." He will not let any chance escape him. He will not delude himself with any premature enthusiasm. He watches his opponents. He watches his own side as carefully. He is pretty sure to play the game for all it is worth.

Himself an example of what political sagacity can do for a discouraged party, he returns to the Senate with increased prestige; and sober-minded Democrats will hope much from his sagacious and peace-loving leadership.

Canada's Iron Industries.

A well known member of the Dominion Parliament recently made the following statement:

"Canada is face to face with the painful truth that her iron and steel industries have not been a success. This does not mean that great iron and steel industries cannot be established in Canada. It does mean, however, that the plain facts should be revealed, no matter how much the revelation costs. Canada produces iron and steel to advantage. This is the question that is brought home to every Canadian to-day. Something is wrong at Sydney and something is wrong at the Sault. What is the matter? We have the coal and iron ore and presumably every advantage to the manufacture of steel. The fault may be in the quality of some of these materials or it may be in the management of the enterprises that so far have failed to get on a solid footing."

The question thus raised is one of supreme importance to Canada. To no small extent, the argument for a protective tariff and the opposition to the Chamberlain plan rest upon Canada's ability to build up industries, large and little, in which iron and steel are the basis of the business. If she cannot from domestic iron manufacture profitably at least a fair proportion of the iron and steel she now imports to a yearly value of approximately \$25,000,000, the sooner she discovers the fact and adjusts her fiscal policy to that fact the better will it be for her.

We do not say that Canada cannot be her own chief source of supply for iron and steel, or that her mines may not yet be developed to a point which would make her an important exporter of manufactured iron and steel goods. We simply quote the statement of a prominent Canadian, and note the apparent ground which he has, in the experience of the Sydney and the Sault properties, for making such a statement.

Canada has iron ores in unlimited

quantity. Deposits estimated to contain billions of tons are known to exist throughout her area from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In Nova Scotia, millions upon millions of tons of ore are actually in sight. The ores of the Sault district were so promising that millions of dollars were invested for their development. Our Canadian neighbors have been so confident of the great value of these deposits that they have paid, during the last twenty years, more than \$3,000,000 in bounties on the manufacture of pig iron alone. But the Sault properties have gone to pieces, for the time being at least, and the Sydney works are suffering at least a temporary depression.

The foregoing opinion that "something is wrong" appears to be entirely justified. There are those, claiming expert knowledge, who declare that Canadian ore can never be made available for general purposes without a liberal admixture of ores of a character not yet found in Canada. There are others, also claiming expert knowledge, who assert the contrary. With all that the industry may mean to her, for good or for ill, it would seem quite time that Canada should find a definite determination of the matter.

The Revolution.

The provisional Government which was organized at Panama as the agent of independence appears to have the support of all political parties, and even of the Colombian troops which were recently despatched to the city. That the movement will quickly extend to Colombia may be taken for granted, and it would not be surprising if the States of Cauca and Antioquia should take part in the uprising. The Republic of Panama, which the inhabitants of the Isthmus, oppressed and plundered by the Bogota politicians, have for two generations striven to create, is at last a fact. The independence of the Isthmus has been more than once declared, in vain; but there is reason to believe that this time Colombia will find herself powerless to overthrow it.

As we have previously pointed out, the Republic of New Granada was scarcely twenty years old when the provinces of Panama and Veragua, wrought to desperation by the neglect of their local interests, declared themselves independent under the name of the State of the Isthmus of Panama. The revolution was quelled, partly by force and partly by promises of better government, which for a while were kept. It soon again became clear, however, that the Isthmus, which geographically, industrially and commercially has nothing in common with those interior provinces of Colombia which have generally been preponderant at Bogota, could not safely intrust the protection and advancement of its local interests to a remote, centralized government. Accordingly, when Colombia in 1853 was transformed from a united into a federal republic, under which every province had the right to declare itself independent, Panama and Antioquia took advantage of the permission and succeeded in maintaining autonomous governments for some years. Again reunited to Colombia and again outraged by neglect and spoliation, Panama for a third time revolted during the Presidency of SANTOS GUITERREZ (1883-70), and it was only with extreme difficulty that the authority of the central government was reestablished. There have since been a number of insurrectionary outbreaks, one of which was only recently suppressed; all provoked by the conviction that it was hopeless to secure a due regard for Isthmian interests at Bogota.

Never before, however, has the welfare of the State of Panama been so shamelessly sacrificed as by the Congress which has just adjourned, after refusing to ratify the canal treaty concluded by President MARQUIN with the United States. To the inhabitants of the Isthmus the completion of the Panama canal is a matter of life and death. If ever a people had the right to sunder old political ties and proclaim themselves independent, the inhabitants of Panama now possess it. The wrong to which they have been subjected at the hands of the Bogota politicians is incomparably more grievous than any that drove our forefathers in 1776 to declare themselves independent of Great Britain. There is not a well informed and fair minded man in the United States, or in France, or in Great Britain, who will not say that Panama has done well to cut itself loose from Colombia and to organize an independent republic.

These revolutionists should have nothing to fear. They have founded a permanent republic. It can no more be overthrown by Colombians than could the Republic of Texas by the Mexicans. Before the State of Panama now opens a brilliant future. We hail the new-born star in the galaxy of American Commonwealths.

Will the Balfour Cabinet Stand After All?

It begins to look as if the Government reconstructed by Mr. BALFOUR may manage to secure a working majority in Parliament and as if, by a reference of projected fiscal changes to a royal commission, an appeal to the constituencies on a preferential tariff issue may be postponed for some years.

The incidents of the last fortnight have not encouraged the Free Fooders. The by-elections rendered necessary through the acceptance of office by the new members of the Cabinet have not disclosed the expected popular reaction against Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's proposal and Mr. BALFOUR's qualified acceptance of it. These local tests undoubtedly show that the Unionist party has lost some votes, but by no means so many as its opponents had counted on. There has been no organized cooperation between the free trade seceders from the Ministry and the Liberals. The latter, indeed, in which the Duke of DEVONSHIRE accepted the presidency of the Free Food League made it clear that he was unwilling to embarrass the Balfour Government, and was by no means disposed to a reunion with his old Liberal comrades. The Liberals themselves are still split into pro-Boers and anti-Boers, and even the hope of victory has not availed to bring about reconciliation.

The Liberal leaders, moreover, are not a little worried to discover that some of their own rank and file look with favor upon Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's programme. There are signs, also, of a drift toward the preferential tariff advocated by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN on the part of British workmen, notwithstanding the fact that the Trades Union Congress and the Miners' Federation have proclaimed adherence to free trade. Nor can it be denied that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's progress from Glasgow to Newcastle, Liverpool and other centres of British industry and trade has assumed to some extent the aspect of a triumphal tour.

It is known, however, that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN would like to defer an appeal to the ballot box until he has had time to "educate" the voters, and Mr. BALFOUR, who declares that Canadian ore can never be made available for general purposes without a liberal admixture of ores of a character not yet found in Canada, would like to prolong the life of the present Parliament to near the end of its statutory term. That, with the aid of the Irish Nationalists, he can avoid defeat during the next session is probable if it be true that, according to a careful count, the Unionist free traders do not control more than sixty seats in the House of Commons. That number would count double, it is true, on a division, but the assistance of the Irish Nationalists would more than counterbalance the loss. There are two valuable concessions which the existing Cabinet cannot and doubtless will, make to Ireland. One is an act for the relief of agricultural laborers, and the other is a State-aided Catholic teaching university (as distinguished from a mere degree-conferring body) which Mr. BALFOUR has long advocated. No doubt the Liberal leaders would pledge themselves to confer similar favors, and even greater ones, but they would probably be unable to redeem their pledges, inasmuch as the House of Lords is overwhelmingly anti-Liberal. We should not, therefore, be surprised to see Mr. JOHN E. REDMOND and his friends combining with Mr. BALFOUR's followers in support of a motion to refer the whole question of free trade versus a retaliatory or preferential tariff to a royal commission. Experience has shown that such a body proceeds in a very leisurely way, and a report would hardly be expected until some two years should have elapsed.

It is, of course, understood that the inquiry previously instituted as to the expediency of adopting Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's programme was undertaken by permanent officials of the Government, and its conclusions would have far less weight than those reached by a royal commission, on which all parties would be fairly represented.

Two Defeats and a Victory.

The Hon. TOM JOHNSON is the foremost representative of Bryanism. More radical than Mr. BRYAN, he has been taken to the great man's bosom. He is or was the heir apparent.

The conservative Ohio Democrats have joined with the Republicans in cooking Tom's hash. In spite of his liberality, activity and rushing methods of campaigning, he has been beaten, absurdly, ignominiously.

His signal defeat is the best piece of good luck the Democratic party has had for some time. And Mr. BRYAN'S State continues to be Republican. The hopelessness of socialistic and populist Democracy, smashed at two Presidential elections, and now smashed again in the States of its leader and his ablest associate, must be apparent even to its blind-partisans. Democratic victory in Maryland, under the direction of an old-fashioned Democratic statesman, points the way toward the rehabilitation of the party.

Where the Vote Came From.

Low carried only eight of the thirty-four Assembly districts of Manhattan—the Fifth, Nineteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-third, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-ninth and Thirty-first.

He received in these districts 55,963 to 43,015 for McCLELLAN, the majority for Low being 12,948.

The aggregate population of these eight districts, according to the census of 1900, was 474,082, and as the total number of votes for the two candidates was 98,983, they were 20.8 per cent. of the population.

The remaining districts of Manhattan carried by McCLELLAN had a population in 1900 of 1,376,011, and his poll in them was 128,290 to Low's 63,179, or a total poll for the two of 191,469, or 13.9 per cent. of the population. This smaller percentage of the vote to the population is explained in large part by the much greater percentage of the foreign born, and consequently of aliens, in the McClellan districts generally. For example, the highest percentage of the foreign born in the Low districts was 37.9 for the Twenty-ninth, but in nineteen of the twenty-seven McClellan districts that percentage was exceeded and in seven the foreign born were actually in the majority.

The eight districts carried by Low are the least crowded districts of Manhattan Island, averaging in 1900 only 91 persons to the acre. Except the First, all the districts carried by McCLELLAN were far more densely populated. Of McClellan's majority in Manhattan third-fourths was obtained in the most crowded districts of the town; or the districts in which the population to the acre is given in this table:

In these districts McCLELLAN polled 70,488 votes and Low only 30,918.

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SUGAR AND CUBA.

The impending consideration by Congress of the question of reciprocity with Cuba gives timeliness to the presentation of a few facts concerning the item of sugar, which forms the real basis of that legislative consideration.

Last year the people of the United States consumed 2,500,000 tons of sugar, or about one-quarter of the entire quantity which came into the world's market. But statements of a world production of approximately 10,000,000 tons of sugar per year give no very clear conception of the enormous quantity of material which it represents. Reducing it to a practical illustration, it may be said that 10,000,000 tons of sugar would load a train of ordinary freight cars which would reach from New York to San Francisco, and would require 6,000 locomotives to move it. It would freight 1,000 ocean-going steamships with 10,000 tons to the ship. If loaded on wagons, two tons to the load, a